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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Renata..

It perplexes me how a group of obviously intelligent people could not see that Microsoft placing \$1 Billion in Intel hardware and Microsoft software into the school systems will do nothing more than cement Microsofts monopoly position for the foreseeable future.

Not to mention what it will do to Apple, who is the predominant player in the educational market.

Users of that software will come out of the school system thinking "I know Microsoft, so I must buy Microsoft software." You know it's true, and if you don't then you need to get some specialists in market sentiment to teach you about it.

If anything, Microsoft should be paying to have its competition gain ground in those sectors as well as in the commecial and consumer sectors, but we know that artificial market shared gained at the expense of Microsoft will only get back to Microsoft, so nothing will be gained in the latter two sectors.

Here's what I'd demand:

Microsoft pays \$2 billion into a general scholastic fund, plus 2% of their gross income for the next 10 years.

The funds are distributed to schools, in a fashion weighted towards those with the lowest technology budget (e.g. the poorest schools) and the lowest per capita family income.

In addition, funds should be used to setup technology training centers in 10 urban areas nationwide with the highest unemployment rates and lowest per-capita incomes.

The funds must be used for technologies other than Microsoft (Apple, Linux, etc.)

Microsoft may not publicize the payment in any way (so as to gain goodwill from it).

I believe this is a reasonable settlement considering the income that Microsoft has generated by gutting every sector of the software industry as it built its huge monopoly.

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